

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

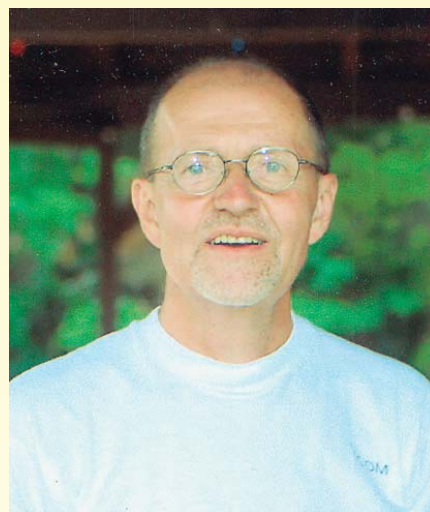
September 2010

Next Meeting: Monday, September 20, 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, hope everyone is doing well and winding down from a very busy summer. That said, don't forget to watch for children going to school around the neighborhoods.

On August 28, 2010 the OVH sponsored and held a special event station at Signal Hill Park. Special thanks to Al / KB4BHB and John / KG4NXT for arranging the event; it was lots of fun and quite a few contacts were made. But what would it have been without the food - thank you, Theresa / KG4TVM for taking such good care of the group in preparing all the great eats, and also to Gary / WG4ARC for providing burgers, hot dogs and associated stuff. For those that supported the event by participating thank you, if not for you, the event would not have been a success! Below is a link to pictures taken by Theresa, Art, and yours truly - Enjoy.... http://k4gvt.com/ovh/2010_special_event



DV Board Project: I have begun placing the two SMT devices on the boards in preparation for the builds. Once I have these placed, I'll schedule the assembly of the remaining parts. Of course this will be done by you with my supervision. The plan is to complete the builds and test your board. I hope to do this later this month, subject to my work schedule, I'll let you know of the date.

I hope you all can make the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, September 20th at 7:30 p.m. at the meeting room at the Prince William County Red Cross at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Very happy birthday wishes to Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH and Mary Lu / KB4EFP.

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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer:	Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2010

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2010

John	KG4NXT /	257-3556
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
Wayne	N7QLK	393-8447

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N4SV	590-9562
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All tel. numbers listed are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted, This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2009 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and all other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also always be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

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Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 02/18/2010

Welcome to our newest members Clarence / K4CNM and Scott / KJ4VTO, looking forward to having you both in the club!

Thanks to Al / KB4BHB for organizing another great special event station on August 28th for the Second Battle of Manassas commemoration along Signal Hill Road next to the Signal Hill Park. Great weather, good contacts, lots of fun and good food! Some pictures and information on the contacts made later in this newsletter.

Brian / WC4J has been back in and out at Prince William Hospital, and is back and forth daily for treatments. He is looking for some help in removing antennas from his house in anticipation of relocating his QTH.

John / KG4NXT and I spent six days in August at Black Water Falls State Park in West Virginia; it was the beginning of their off season there but we had a great time and it was absolutely beautiful there. Of course, John brought some ham gear.

I'm looking forward to chairing the Girl Scout Adventure Day on October 16th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. This is an all day event, so we are looking for people to help set up and also to be at our booth. If you can give us an hour or more that would be great just let me know what time to expect you!

Just a reminder, the Thursday night net is going strong at 8:00 pm, please join us on the OVH repeater! If you would like to be a net control just let John / KG4NXT know.

Please send me your news to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting August 16, 2010:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 26 OVH members and 2 guests.

Emil Klingenfus, a retired Army officer now in his early 80's, became a ham years ago based upon exposure to ham radio while stationed in Korea, but his license has expired. Emil attended the meeting. Recently, he spotted the WA2GTT tags on Alan's vehicle in a parking lot and asked Alan about the local ham radio club because he had a old, but unused ICOM 751 which he wanted to donate to the club. George / K4GVT accepted Emil's great donation on behalf of the club. Al / KB4BHB asked Emil to become a member, David / KG4GIY moved to make him an honorary member for life. (See membership report).

Al / KB4BHB reported on the special event to be held on August 28th, setup will start at 7 am on Signal Hill Road; Al reviewed items needed and also what will be available; Jeff N1SN suggested we use the new donated radio; John / KG4NXT let us know that this event doesn't have the rules associated with contests and other events and this is why he really enjoys operating; George / K4GVT let everyone know that if you make a contact you get a certificate, a copy of it was

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displayed on the video in the meeting room.

David / KG4GIY asked about next year for the 150 year anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas; Gary / WG4ARC is going to look into setting up at the Manassas Museum.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Gary / WG4ARC, report was approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM presented applications Emil as Honorary Member, and Clarence Meese / K4CNM and Scott Downey / KJ4VTO; all were approved; no applications to read in.

Joe / KI4OHR asked for the club to work on the membership packets; Art / W1CRO suggested that members send their ideas to Joe and then he can coordinate to get the packets completed.

ARES – David / KG4GIY next ARES meeting is September 18th; Health Department will have an exercise in September; Voluntary Action Center is looking for people to help with the exercise on 9/25/2010. Steve / N4OGR reported on National Night Out, there was a nice turnout and he did have the help he needed.

DStar/Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that George / K4GVT and Butch / W4HJL will be working on 2 meters in the coming week; they are taking proactive measures to keep the equipment running; some of the equipment does need to be replaced; DStar does have an air conditioner now, temperature is tracking at approximately 77 degrees, it use to be about 110; George thanked Keith / KM4AA and Steve / N4OGR for installing the air conditioner; George / K4GVT wants to profile the duplexer before putting it on the air.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has received some names of individuals interested in a class; he is looking at starting a class in the fall; Joe / KI4OHR asked about an extra class, Mark will look into for possibly next spring.

Hamfest – George / K4GVT is looking for a chairperson for next year, George will handle the commercial vendors.

Field Day – Also needs a chairperson for next year and George / K4GVT asked to consider a new location with more access to the general public.

New Business – Butch / W4HJL has been contacted by Bob Voss / K9OYD about having help to put up an antenna at his house, he will donate \$3000 to the club.

BREAK

Winter Field Day – Joe / KI4OHR is trying to get the same venue as last year for the last weekend in January; he is going to look into having DStar contacts as part of the contest; Joe stated that this is a fun event, and he wants to know about a budget..

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays.

Drawing for the mystery box was won by Art / W1CRO, \$14 was collected. The 50/50 was won by Theresa / KG4TVM and she donated her winnings back to the club for a total of \$10.

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NEW BUSINESS

Randy / WB7RAV has been appointed to run the radio room in the Red Cross Building and wanted to know about the antenna that still needs to be installed; Art W1CRO will do this on Wednesday.

Joe / KI4OHR asked for more promotion of DStar at the club meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 24, Mason-Dixon Hamfest Westminster, Maryland sponsored by the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club. This is the 24th year for this hamfest. More info at <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

November 6-8, 2010. ARRL's Sweepstakes Contest, CW.

November 20-22, 2010. ARRL's Sweepstakes Contest, Phone.

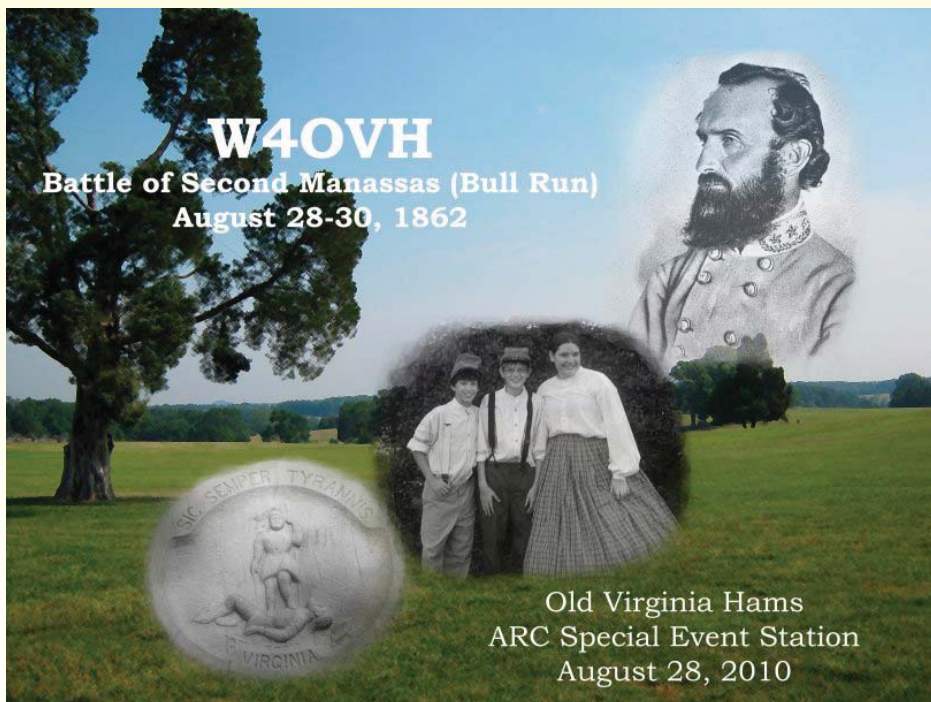
The ARRL's Sweepstakes Contests have lots of participants and provide an excellent opportunity to complete "Worked All States" or even work all States in one weekend. Complete information is available on the ARRL's web site.

There are many operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site.

Wrap Up — OVH August 28, 2010 Special Event Station Commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas



TO THE LEFT:

The QSL card for those contacting the Special Event Station, W4OVH

TOTALS FOR CONTACTS MADE:

40 Meter SSB: 55
20 Meter SSB: 56
17 Meter SSB: 1 (in Cuba)

FM and D-Star Repeaters: 17
(D-Star via gateway included contacts with Japan and England)

Pictures on following page.

Setup began at 7:00 a.m.,
On-the-air operations began at 8:00 a.m.
Food Service began mid-morning.



Continued on next page

Joe / KI4OHR had an interesting vertical antenna system for use by the Special Event Station; its long mast was stabilized by his car. Pictures are worth a thousand words to show how!



The finished product, below:



SOME NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIOS (SDRs)

Many of you will recall that Dwight / AI4II (N4GSD) demonstrated at an OVH meeting several years ago a very low cost Soft Rock SDR 40 meter receiver. See dspradio.org and the Yahoo Group softrock40 for more info about the Soft Rock SDR. That type of SDR (and others in its class) use a computer's audio card (with appropriate SDR software) to process, display, and selectively demodulate in real time a relatively wide bandwidth (compared to a conventional HF receiver) of signals depending upon the processing bandwidth capability of the computer's audio card. Dwight's demo of the Soft Rock's capability was impressive (compared to a conventional HF receiver) because that SDR permitted one to receive (and "observe" in a waterfall display on the computer monitor) the RF spectrum usage in a range typically +/- 30 to 50 KHz about a center frequency.

One of the early publishers of free software for the Soft Rock SDR, Alex / VE3NEA [who publishes the DXAtlas and other software at dxatlas.com] has since developed a software package known as the CW Skimmer capable of simultaneously decoding Morse code and displaying the text automatically for all received CW signals within the output bandwidth of a Soft Rock SDR. This has to be seen to be believed! See <http://dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/> as well as the skimmertalk mailing list at contesting.com and Google Groups "cw skimmer" for more about the CW Skimmer. The proliferation of low cost SDRs and CW Skimmers has led ham innovators to establish the worldwide Reverse Beacon Network [reversebeacon.net] connected by telnet connections to localized SDR receivers with CW Skimmers. That network surveils the HF CW ham bands and provides an automatically updated, almost real time listing of the CW station callsigns which have been "heard" (and where). This impressive system allows one to assess real-time propagation conditions based upon actual, real-time band activity! Because it is automated, that system is not limited to manual reporting of "spots" as is the case for the still very useful DX Cluster reporting system.

Another ham radio development which has occurred due to the availability of relatively wide bandwidth outputs from these types of SDRs is online radio receivers which may be accessed, listened to and tuned over the Internet. A number of such SDR sites (e.g., the site at utwente.nl) are cataloged, for example, at websdr.org, a site which may also catalog certain sites with remotely controlable conventional radios. Of course, all modern radios use a variety of digital signal processing techniques. Flex-Radio (flex-radio.com) is perhaps in the foreground currently as the commercial provider of fully integrated SDR transceivers for the ham radio market.

SDR hardware of interest to the ham radio community, however, is not limited to the relatively low cost SDRs which are dependent upon and limited by the bandwidth of a computer's audio card. A number of much wider bandwidth and more pricey SDRs are available. Examples: the PERSEUS SDR (www.mircotelecom.it/perseus and Yahoo Groups perseus_SDR), the QuickSilver SDR (www.philcovington.com/QuickSilver/ and Yahoo Groups qs1r) and the RFSpace SDRs (rfspace.com and several Yahoo Groups).

The recent September 2010 AMRAD meeting (on September 9th) included an hour long "live" demonstration of one of these, the very wide bandwidth PERSEUS SDR hardware and its software by Andy / W4JE. The extremely impressive capabilities of the Perseus' and its software (and the wide bandwidth class of SDR) represent what we can expect to see in higher end systems in the future!

Some of these capabilities as demonstrated and described at that meeting will now be summarized briefly. 1. The Perseus system can receive and record wide swaths of spectrum (e.g., an entire HF ham band at one time); the digital recording can be replayed later (repetitively, if desired) so that the user may listen to (i.e., demodulate, decode and/or analyze) every signal in that recorded spectrum. 2. the bandwidths being listened to or recorded can be adjusted arbitrarily by the user. 3. the Perseus' sensitivity to "picking up" signals within a wide swath of bandwidth is affected and limited only by the bandpass characteristics of the effective preceding filter (including the antenna and transmission line network combination), the basic sensitivity of the Perseus is extremely good (compared to modern, narrow band receivers). 4. recording of lengthy, wide bandwidth swaths of spectrum can require large amounts of hard drive space but terabyte drives are now readily available, W4JE uses a Blue-Ray (50+ GB per DVD) recorder to "save" his recordings. 5. the waterfall type spectrum display can be used to surveil in detail all activities occurring across an entire band or subband. 6. the Perseus SDR can be connected to a wideband IF output from another receiver, extending its range to VHF, UHF, etc. 7. the Perseus system can receive VLF and LF signals; etc. etc. This will be the future! Who wants one of these now? Whoever gets one first must demo at an OVH club meeting!